



The Letcombe Register



Issue 205

September 2022

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun			
			1	Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	2	3	Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	4	Tennis Mix in 10am Cricket 11am
					Pizza at the Pavilion 5.00 - 8.30 pm	Foot ball 3pm			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
 Evensong 3pm	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)		Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	Holy Communion 10am St Andrew's	Tennis Mix in 10am Cricket 1pm		
	RG&VH Trust Meeting 7.30pm Sports Pavilion	Book Buffs 8.00pm Greyhound Inn	Junior Tennis 5-8pm		Ride & Stride 10am-5pm St Andrew's				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
 Evensong 3pm WI - 'Women in Oxford' Village Hall 7.30pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Sports Pavilion	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)		Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	Tennis Mix in 10am			
		Tennis Mix in 6pm	Junior Tennis 5-8pm		Nature Reserve work party 1.30-4.30pm				
		Film Club 'The Duke' Village Hall 8pm							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
 Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting (WR) 8pm Village Hall	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)		Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	Holy Communion Harvest Festival 10am St Andrew's	Tennis Mix in 10am		
		Tennis Mix in 6pm	Junior Tennis 5-8pm						
		Gardening Club 7.30pm Village Hall							
26	27	28	29	30					
 Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)		Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall					
		Tennis Mix in 6pm	Junior Tennis 5-8pm						
	Register Deadline								

* Events shown depend on organisers updating the Register@oldstableyard.co.uk
They are underlined if a link is available for an email address or website.

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Message from the Parish Council

August is traditionally the quiet month for news and your Parish Council is no exception. Thankfully as I write, the heatwave seems to have broken and a small amount of rain has fallen. Let's hope for more to change our brown fields back into green.

Talking about green waste, the Chairman and Vice Chairman spent a useful few hours emptying the bins at the burial ground to ensure that compost, plastic waste and other left overs from flowers left at graves are placed in the right bins which are labelled. With Councillor Barber's help a large number of bags were taken to the tip and the area tidied up. It would be greatly appreciated if villagers and other visitors to the burial ground could help to keep it in this state.

We are continuing to improve this peaceful spot with further landscaping once the soil is moist and we are able to see if the beech plantings have survived.

As many of you will have seen on the news, a further round of vaccinations against Covid is due from September for all those over 50 plus flu vaccination for the same age group. We would encourage all to follow the NHS recommendations as flu is expected to be particularly bad this year after several years without a serious outbreak.

The Parish Council is still seeking to tender for a full village maintenance contract despite several contractors visiting the village and receiving the schedule drawn up with input from several villagers but no suitable bids have been received. If anyone has useful contacts in this field please get in touch with the Parish Clerk as we would hope to start this from the next financial year.

In the next edition of the Register there will be a short questionnaire about the Letcombe Regis website and we welcome your opinions and suggestions. Please do complete it.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Warborough Room at the Village Hall at 8 pm on Monday, September 19th and members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Loretta Light
Vice Chairman



[Click HERE for website](#)
[for David Johnston MP](#)

Letcombe Football Club



The football season is now in full swing. With three wins and one draw from four pre-season friendlies, we approached our first competitive match with confidence. This was at home to East Hendred in the Faringdon Memorial, and we came back from a goal down to win 2-1. We played Faringdon Town at home in the second round, and we conceded two early goals before rallying to win 3-2. We are now in the semi final which will not be played until April. Our first league match was at home to Clanfield development, and although we dominated the game and missed a penalty, the match ended goalless.

Fixtures arranged so far in September are :

Sat	3 rd	v	Hungerford Swifts	Home	league	3.00pm
Sat	10 th	v	Didcot Town youth	Away	county cup	1.30pm

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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Hazel Lee Jones

Beauty, Healing and Hair

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Mrsjbeautyhealing@gmail.com

Mrs Jones Beauty Grove

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Ian Trotter – arborist
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Issue 205

Pilates



Ladies Pilates restarts Thursday 8th September at 9.30am.

Mens Pilates restarts Friday 9th September at 9.30am.

There are a few places left in each class, please call Rachel in advance if you would like to sign up, on 07801 824293



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St Andrew's

As this long (very) hot summer draws to an end it is worth remembering the lovely display of wild flowers we have enjoyed in the churchyard. Since the first snowdrops of spring there have always been flowers in bloom, despite the drought conditions, and we are grateful to Anne Williams for this.

The Holy Communion service on Sunday 14th was presided over by Rev Mary Harwood. Georgia Dunmore and Caspar Lumley were at the service, with her parents, when their banns were read for the final time before their wedding on 27th August.

The arrangements for the appointment of our new Rector are well under way. There are representatives of each parish on the selection committee. The deadline for applicants is 21st August and the short list will be ready on 31st August. Interviews will take place on 19th September and it is hoped the appointment will be made on that day. Work is due to start shortly to update the Rectory in order for it to be ready for the new incumbent in due course.

On Saturday 10th September Ride and Stride welcomers will be in the church to offer refreshments and to sign the participants' forms which show how many churches they have visited. There will also be a list for them to sign which will show how many people have visited St Andrew's. This is, as said last month, the main fundraising event every year for the OHCT and many parishes throughout Oxfordshire benefit from their help. If anyone from St Andrew's plans to take part and would like entry/sponsorship forms so they can bicycle, ride, stride, or run, please contact Debbie Webb (debbieleek21@gmail.com).

Upcoming services. After the break for August, Prayer Group will start again on Monday 5th September at 10.30 am as will Said Evensong at 3 pm on the same day.

In September there will be a slight alteration in the Sunday services to include Harvest Festival on Sunday 25th September. This means that in September there will be Holy Communion on both the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Harvest gifts will be very welcome, ideally tinned or dry goods which will be distributed to charities in Wantage. Gifts can be left in the church during the previous week and for a few days afterwards.

In October we will revert for the time being to Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Morning Prayer, lay led, on the fourth Sunday. As ever all details can be found in the Signpost.

Letcombes Women's Institute



The next meeting of the WI will be on Monday, September 12th, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Speaker will be Jane Dickenson on 'Women in Oxford'. Jane is very interesting speaker and has a knack of bringing these women to life as she shares their history and stories.

200 Club Draw — No 6		September 2022
115	Sophie HORRIDGE	£50
237	Helen WATTIE	£25
127	Angela BAILEY MYERS	£15
125	Paul CAMPION	£10
140	Fran ENGELMANN	£5
Special Draw:		
201	Jaye MATTHEWS	£25
231	Andy BRAITHWAITE	£20
57	Elsbeth HORRIDGE	£10
80	John & Liz CASTLE	£10
108	Shirley TAYLOR	£10
71	Katie MACKILLIGIN	£10
174	Jeanne LAPSLEY	£10
New Numbers Draw		
2	Andy YATES	£5



Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 14th September

Tickets £5 Doors open 7.30pm
Film starts at 8.00 pm

Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

The Village Hall continues to be a popular venue with very positive feedback from users.

The programme of building repairs and maintenance including the restoration of the underfloor heating in the hall is ongoing.

The recent ROSPA inspection of the playground confirmed that some of the equipment is worn and we have received specialist advice on possible replacements and alternatives. These include some equipment suitable for use by children with disability. A final shortlist of equipment and a surfacing material which should reduce rabbit damage is being developed and costed. The excess hedgerow growth has been cut back and the rotten climbing log and unwanted tree stumps will be removed in the near future.

Work has begun to improve the land of the Old Riding Club Field behind the bonfire area to make it ready for replanting as part of the community woodland project. This had to be suspended as a result of the extensive overgrowth of thistles and weeds earlier in the year. The renovation is likely to take two or three years to complete.

We have contacted the District Council about installing additional bins for dog waste at the entrances to the Village Hall and Sports Pavilion car parks. They have provided details of suppliers but do not, at the moment, provide an emptying service for additional bins. We are now looking at alternative options.

The next Trustee Management Committee meeting is on the 6th September and will be in the Sports Pavilion at 7.30 pm.

Mike Light and Jeanne Lapsley
Joint Interim Chairs



Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

Autumn has arrived and I hope that your garden has survived this drought we've been having.

You still need to continue watering any new plants even if this is a more arduous task now that we have had a hosepipe ban imposed on us. That said, I think you're allowed to water newly planted trees for up to 28 days after planting. You should start to reduce the amount of water you give to houseplants from this month though. Take note. It is very easy to kill houseplants by overwatering and causing them to rot off!

This is a good time to plant new perennials but with one proviso, rain!! If we continue with this drought then the plants may struggle so you could be well advised to wait a week or so until the ground gets a good soaking.

You can still take cuttings of tender perennials. This is a good idea if you have salvias that you put outside as many of them are not hardy and you could lose them over the winter. It is easier to overwinter smaller plants inside, as they don't take up so much space!

Autumn is a really good time to plant new shrubs and trees as they have all the winter to settle in.

This season does herald 'the great leaf drop' although you'd be forgiven for thinking that it started in July/August as many trees have been shedding leaves as a defence mechanism against the drought! Clearing leaves is not really a fun job but it's a good idea to clear them from the borders as they fall as they can harbour disease. This is particularly relevant for rose leaves as black spot can overwinter in them. Put the rose leaves in the brown bin and not your compost heap.

Don't panic if you see fungi in your garden. Rejoice in them as many are really attractive and very few are a threat. We all know about the dreaded honey fungus but, for instance, if you get fungi springing up in your lawn chances are they're harmless. For your information, honey fungus usually appears in late September/early October and more often in areas of woody planting.

Well, I'm not sure what I can say about veg. This summer has been an allotment disaster really as it's been almost impossible to keep everything adequately watered and yields have been very low verging on non-existent.

Let's try and be optimistic here and assume we're going to get some rain. With this hope you can sow some oriental veg like pak choi as they will germinate quickly and be hardy enough to withstand the winter. You could also try some spinach and maybe get a better crop now than has been possible through this summer.

On the plus side the apple trees seem to have done pretty well so you should be starting to harvest apples now. The summer raspberries have been pretty bad but if it rains this month then maybe you will be able to harvest some half decent fruit.

If there is one really useful thing you could do this month it's to install a water butt, or, better still, several water butts!! Scientists say that we can look forward to more weather like we've been having this summer so it's good to be better prepared.

Well I think that's all for now so I'm going to go outside and 'perform a rain dance' in the hope that our garden gets some much needed moisture and I don't have to spend all my time hauling watering cans around. Enjoy!

Gardening Club Meeting

Hi everyone! I hope you've all had a good summer and that your gardens have survived the drought. The new season starts this month for the Gardening Club and we have a really good programme of speakers for you to look forward to. This month Sally Morgan will be coming to talk to us on '*The Climate Change Garden*'. I think you'll all agree that this is an extremely relevant subject considering the weather we've been experiencing over the last couple of months.

The date for your diary is Wednesday 21st September at 7.30pm and the meeting will take place, as usual, in Letcombe Regis Village Hall. If you've never attended before then do come along and give us a try! I look forward to seeing you all on the 21st.



The Letcombes Conservation Group

The Thames Valley and eight other areas were officially pronounced as drought regions in early August with hose pipe bans introduced later including by Thames Water on 24 August. A drought can be defined as a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall leading to water shortages and this year January onwards has been the driest period in England since 1976 with July the driest on record. Combined with low rainfall, in England the record high temperatures have led to high evaporation rates and very dry conditions underground for most of the south and east. The landscape of brown grass, dying vegetation and dried-up rivers is so extensive that the dramatic contrast between August 2020 (left) and 2022 (right) can be seen on satellite images from the European Space Agency:



These conditions are expected to continue into early autumn, and possibly longer, with consequences for the environment and ecosystems as well as water supply. As heat scorches leaves, already-declining insect and caterpillar numbers suffer as do the food chains which rely upon them. Bumblebees are particularly affected, quickly overheating and unable to fly or forage to replace the few days' food reserves in their nests. Birds have a higher core body temperature than many other animals but no sweat glands, so find it difficult to maintain their body temperature. They lose water in their droppings and through respiration which is why birds open their beaks to try to lose heat in hot weather. As water resources dry up, many birds struggle to rehydrate and to keep their feathers in good condition. Birds normally still in this area have moved on earlier than in previous years, such as the Canada Geese and their goslings (left photo in May 2022), the swallows, swifts and ducks that regularly use the pool in the deer field, completely dry since early August this year. Tree leaves turn red or brown with more concentrated sugars



and pigments and may be shed preserving moisture in the branches and trunk giving a 'false' autumn. Fruits such as blackberries are smaller and drop earlier depriving mammals and birds of vital energy reserves later in autumn.

Human-induced climate change leads meteorologists to expect that a higher frequency of extremes of weather will cause greater impact from droughts and flash flooding but no overall increase in rainfall amounts. World temperatures have already warmed by around 1.1°C from the start of industrialisation and the Earth is now at its hottest for 125,000 years according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Unless governments take measures to promote steep cuts to the emissions of 'greenhouse' gases causing climate warming, temperatures will keep rising.



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 17th September from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. Tools will be provided, and refreshments too mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.

As elsewhere, the plants in the Community Reserve have been affected by the heat though some on the uncut grassland seem to be surviving. Plants like Wild carrot, *Daucus carota*, with deep tap roots can reach down to moisture in the ground to cope with drought conditions, photo credit: John Kearvell. This plant has delicate, white umbrella-shaped flowering heads that are very attractive to insects and tightly curled-up seed heads. It is best avoided as the sap of the leaves can cause blisters when touched and exposed to sunlight and, though the ancestor of the cultivated carrot, the roots are tough and fibrous.



The freshwater pond in the Community Reserve has dried up over summer which will impact the amphibian lifecycles that depend upon the water. This year the warmer water in the pond may have meant that the tadpoles developed faster; amphibians rely on external sources of heat so hot weather means they are more active. Predators will be more active also and there certainly were not as many visible tadpoles in the pond as in previous years. With lower water levels young frogs, toads and newts may leave ponds before they are fully developed and, as the drier conditions make it harder for amphibians to find damp, cool places to take refuge, they simply die if they do not reach other freshwater such as the Letcombe Brook. The flip side of this apparent disaster is that an increase in the population of invertebrate predators in the breeding pond will be checked. (Photo credit: Common frogs, *Rana temporaria*, cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Walter Baxter - geograph.org.uk/p/7131201). According to the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, a single hot summer is unlikely to impact the amphibian population in the long term unless other factors such as disease compound the chance of survival of succeeding generations. A booklet called *Dragons in your garden* is available from the Trust's website at [What does a heatwave mean for amphibians? | Amphibian and Reptile Conservation \(arc-trust.org\)](http://What%20does%20a%20heatwave%20mean%20for%20amphibians%3F%20%7C%20Amphibian%20and%20Reptile%20Conservation%20(arc-trust.org)) with information on how gardens can provide additional habitats for amphibians.



Remarkably, considering the low rainfall levels all year, the level of water in the Letcombe Brook has been replenished from the underground aquifer by springs keeping the rills trickling to the brook through the Community Reserve even through August. This water keeps the headwaters cool, as does shade from vegetation, so the headwaters remain oxygenated. However, the monitoring station on the brook in Letcombe Bassett has shown a drop in water level to 0.11 metres at 10:15am on 25 August. For comparison the 'normal' range is considered to be from 0.06 to 0.2 metres; the highest level of 0.23 metres was recorded on 7 January 2003. The second headwater that flows from Spring Lake alongside Warborough Road was only at a level of 0.01 metres at 5:30am on 25 August. This is considered 'low' being below the 'normal' range of 0.02 to 0.71 metres; the highest level of 0.71 metres was recorded on 20 July 2007. The flooding in Letcombe Regis on that 2007 day followed an unusually wet May and June resulting in high stream levels and saturated ground that could not absorb the exceptional rainfall of 19 and 20 July. Very dry and hard ground also does not absorb rainfall quickly but the streams are at a much lower level this year. The daily data from the recording stations on the Letcombe Brook may be viewed on the government website at [River and sea levels in England - GOV.UK \(check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk\)](http://River%20and%20sea%20levels%20in%20England%20-%20GOV.UK%20(check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)) whilst flood warnings are issued at [Letcombe Brook at Letcombe Bassett and Letcombe Regis :: Flood alerts and warnings :: the UK River Levels Website](http://Letcombe%20Brook%20at%20Letcombe%20Bassett%20and%20Letcombe%20Regis%20::%20Flood%20alerts%20and%20warnings%20::%20the%20UK%20River%20Levels%20Website).



Film Club

The Duke - Wednesday September 14

Welcome to our new season of Film Club! We are starting off with the very enjoyable and uplifting film - *The Duke*. Made in 2020, this is a great, old fashioned British film with an excellent cast featuring the cream of current English actors, including Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren and Matthew Goode.

'The Duke' in the film title is Goya's famous portrait of the Duke of Wellington, which in 1961 was stolen from the National Gallery by Newcastle pensioner, Kempton Bunton, in protest against government waste of tax payers money and to support his call for free TV licences for pensioners. Jim Broadbent plays the 60 year old Kempton, while Helen Mirren brilliantly plays his long suffering but loyal wife Deborah.

This is a story of marriage, family life and getting through the difficult times, including stealing a very valuable painting! It took over 50 years for what really happened to come out. Come along to our September Film Club and find out the full story of the 'The Duke'.

Doors open at 7.30, with the film starting at 8pm, but come along early and have drink and a chat before the film. Tickets prices remain at £5. Look forward to seeing you there!

Future film dates:

- October 12 - Phantom of the Open
- November 9 - Operation Mincemeat
- December 14 - tbc



Book Buffs

The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound at 8pm on Wednesday 7th September.

We shall be reviewing '*Americannah*' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and '*The Offing*' by Benjamin Myers.

The new library book is '*Days without End*' by Sebastian Barry with the alternative being a personal choice.



Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The Sports & Social Club has had a busy August, the next event we have scheduled is the Pizza Evening on Friday 2nd September. Please see the adjacent poster in the Register for details of how to order, but you should know by now what the routine is!

The Cricket season is coming to a close, but Darts continues to thrive, with both the A and B teams holding their own in their respective divisions.

The Football season is underway, and we are optimistic that it will be a successful season this year.

As always, if you have any questions about the Sports & Social Club, or would like to become a member, then please contact me on "letcombesportsclub@gmail.com".

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports & Social Club

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 Francesca Engelmann,
 2, The Old Stables,
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The views expressed in the Register do not necessarily reflect the view of
 Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Past Registers are available to view,
 along with much more information,
 on the Village Website:
www.letcomberegispc.org

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Deadline for inclusion is 27th of each month.
 Items will generally appear in the order they were received

September 2022 **Click [Here](#) for 2022/23 waste calendar**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
Grey Landfill Food waste			Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			